



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/657,716

09/09/2003

Holger Hoffmann

1454.1483

8738

21171 7590 02/05/2008
STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

DICKERSON, CHAD S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/05/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/657,716

Applicant(s)

HOFFMANN, HOLGER

Examiner

Chad Dickerson

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see page 7, filed 11/20/2007, with respect to the claim objections have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objections of claims 1, 3, 8 and 9 have been withdrawn.
2. Applicant's arguments, see page 7, filed 11/20/2007, with respect to the 112 2nd rejections have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 112 2nd rejection of claim 1 has been withdrawn.
3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In the recently filed amendment filed on 11/20/2007, the Applicant asserted that the system of Tajiri does not allow for transmitting identification information of a sending fax machine from the first data gateway to the second data gateway. The Examiner respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

The Examiner would like to point out column 6, line 64 – col. 7, line 3. It states that the transmitting facsimile (30) packetizes TSI information, considered as identification information and sends this information to the other Fax (120) via the Internet faxes (10) and (110). It is clear in this section that the two gateways communicate with each other with the TSI information. This can be seen in figure 5A as well.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 3-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Tajiri '420 (US Pat No 69758420) and Sakurai '373 (US Pub No 2002/0001373).

Re claim 1: A method for setting up a fax connection between a calling fax machine controlled by a first communication facility and a called fax machine controlled by a second communication facility over a packet-oriented network connecting the communication facilities, comprising:

terminating sent data of a first fax machine at a first data gateway belonging to the first communication facility (i.e. when resources need to be released, the fax machine sends messages or data through the network unit to the data gateway. Step t0 is an example of the first fax machine using the network unit (NU1) to send request data to request the provisioning of resources of the first data gateway for data connection to the other fax machine in the system. This request is sent to the first data gateway, where it is terminated, which belongs to the first communication facility shown in figure 3; see figs. 2 and 3; paragraphs [0015]-[0024] in applicant's specification);

terminating sent data of a second fax machine at a second data gateway belonging to the second communication facility (i.e. the second fax machine sends data

Art Unit: 2625

to the second data gateway requesting provisioning of resources for the second data gateway for the data connection to be set up for the first fax machine. The second fax machine sends data to the second data gateway that is terminated at the second data gateway, which belongs to the second communication facility; see figs. 2 and 3; paragraphs [0025]-[0027] of applicant's specification);

setting up a payload data connection between the first and second data gateways (i.e. in the background of the invention, at set t5, the connection setup of a payload data connection takes place between the first data gateway (DG1) of the first fax protocol and the second data gateway (DG2) of the second fax protocol; see figs. 2 and 3; paragraphs [0028] and [0029] of applicant's specification);

setting up a transmission-controlling connection between the first fax machine and the first data gateway (i.e. the first data gateway acts as a fax machine communicating to the fax machine important information it receives. Once the first data gateway sets up the transmission connection with control messages, analogous to transmission-controlling connection, this sets up the first fax machine for transmission that will occur later on in the process. Illustrated in steps t14-16, the set up of the connection of the fax machine with the respective data gateway and the fax protocol takes place before the transmission of the image data occurs. Step t14, indicates the successful initialization of the sender side arrangements for initiating the data connection to the first data gateway, which is analogous to setting up the connection that controls the transmission of data between the first fax machine to the first data gateway. Also, with the connection setup occurring in t5 that setup a data connection

Art Unit: 2625

between the fax machines and their respective gateways, without this connection being established, the transmission of data would not occur. Therefore, this also can be considered as process that performs a transmission-controlled connection; see figs. 2 and 3; paragraphs [0041]-[0045]);

setting up a transmission-controlling connection between the second fax machine and the second data gateway (i.e. the second data gateway acts as a fax machine communicating to the fax machine important information it receives. Once the second data gateway sets up the transmission connection with control messages, analogous to transmission-controlling connection, this sets up the second fax machine for transmission that will occur later on in the process. Shown in figure 2B, steps t19-t22, illustrates the set up of the connection of the second fax machine with the respective data gateway. The second fax protocol establishes a connection with the second data gateway so that data can be transmitted to the second data gateway from the second fax protocol. Also, with the connection setup occurring in t5 that setup a data connection between the fax machines and their respective gateways, without this connection being established, the transmission of data would not occur. Therefore, this also can be considered as process that performs a transmission-controlled connection; see figs. 2 and 3; paragraphs [0045]-[0052]); and

transmitting identification information of the sending fax machine from the first data gateway to the second data gateway (i.e. in step t17, the system of the related art transmits identification information to the second data gateway from the first data

Art Unit: 2625

gateway of the sending or transmitting fax machine. This is clearly shown in figure 2B; see figs. 2 and 3; paragraphs [0045]-[0052]).

However, the admitted prior art fails to teach after setting up the transmission-controlling connection between the second fax machine and the second gateway, transmitting identification information of a sending fax machine from the first data gateway to the second data gateway.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Tajiri '420. Tajiri '420 discloses transmitting identification information of a sending fax machine from the first data gateway to the second data gateway (i.e. when viewing figure 5A, it is clear which facsimile is the transmitter and receiver. Both have established communication with their respective image gateways, or internet faxes (10 and 110), and the receiving facsimile is sending packets over to the transmitting fax machine. The transmitting fax machine now sends TSI or Transmitting Station Identification, which is similar to the TSI mentioned in applicant's specification. This performs the feature of having the TSI sent to a second fax machine from a first fax machine with the first fax machine being the transmitting fax machine; see figs. 5a and 5b; see col. 6, lines 38-67 and col. 7, lines 1-35).

Therefore, in view of Tajiri '420, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the feature of transmitting identification information of a sending fax machine from the first data gateway to the second data gateway in order to send the TSI in response to the commands sent to the transmitting

Art Unit: 2625

fax machine from the receiving fax machine through the Internet facsimile devices (as stated in Tajiri '420 col. 6, lines 35-67).

However, the admitted prior art in view of Tajiri '420 does not specifically teach after setting up the transmission-controlling connection between the second fax machine and the second gateway.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Sakurai '373. Sakurai '373 discloses after setting up the transmission-controlling connection between the second fax machine and the second gateway (i.e. in the system, the different gateways establish communications with their respective facsimile devices. Each gateway establishes what state each facsimile is in. After, the communication is established with the gateways and facsimiles, the transmission signals are sent to connect the facsimiles and gateways. Once these are connect, in figures 7 or in the prior art figure 14, the TSI signal, considered as the identification signal, is sent to the second gateway from the first gateway; see figs. 7 and 14; paragraphs [0009]-[0019] and [0066]-[0075]).

Therefore, in view of Sakurai '373, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the feature of after setting up the transmission-controlling connection between the second fax machine and the second gateway, transmitting identification information of the sending fax machine from the first data gateway to the second data gateway in order to connect the facsimile apparatus to the respective gateway for the system to know the devices transmission or receipt state (as stated in Sakurai '373 paragraph [0047]).

Art Unit: 2625

Re claim 3: The teachings of admitted prior art in view of Tajiri '420 and Sakurai '373 are disclosed above.

The admitted prior art discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein the identification information identifies a type of fax machine (i.e. as stated in paragraph [0045] of the background of the invention, the TSI can be details of the type of fax; see paragraph [0045] of the background of the invention).

Re claim 4: The teachings of admitted prior art in view of Tajiri '420 and Sakurai '373 are disclosed above.

The admitted prior art discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein the identification information contains information about a directory number identifying the fax machine (i.e. as stated in paragraph [0045] of the background of the invention, the TSI can comprise of a directory number identifying the first fax machine or any other machine; see paragraph [0045] of the background of the invention).

Re claim 5: The teachings of admitted prior art in view of Tajiri '420 and Sakurai '373 are disclosed above.

The admitted prior art discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second data gateways employs a fax protocol unit for converting connection-controlling payload data (i.e. at step t7, the fax protocol is used in the first data gateway in order to receive a request for opening a useful data channel for the waiting remote copy data transmission. The first fax protocol translates or converts this

Art Unit: 2625

incoming information and opens up a useful data channel. This is an example of converting the connection-controlling useful data since it opens up a useful data connection based on the control message sent to the fax protocol; see figs. 2 and 3; paragraphs [0030]-[0035]).

Re claim 6: The teachings of admitted prior art in view of Tajiri '420 and Sakurai '373 are disclosed above.

The admitted prior art discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein both the first and second data gateways employ a fax protocol unit for converting connection-controlling payload data (i.e. at step t7, the fax protocol is used in the first data gateway in order to receive a request for opening a useful data channel for the waiting remote copy data transmission. The first fax protocol translates or converts this incoming information and opens up a useful data channel. This is an example of converting the connection-controlling useful data since it opens up a useful data connection based on the control message sent to the fax protocol. Also, in step t19, a request is sent from the second data gateway to the second fax protocol requesting for the fax protocol to open up a useful data channel or connection for the waiting remote copy data transmission. The second fax protocol converts the useful data that controls the setting up of a connection in the system; see figs. 2 and 3; paragraphs [0030]-[0052]).

Re claim 7: The teachings of admitted prior art in view of Tajiri '420 and Sakurai '373 are disclosed above.

Art Unit: 2625

The admitted prior art discloses the method according to claim 6, wherein control messages are exchanged between the fax protocol units and the data gateways, and the control messages are received and sent by an intermediately connected application interface (i.e. as stated in the background of the invention in paragraph [0033], control messages are sent between the fax protocols and the data gateways, which implies that one has to be a transmitter and one a receiver in the messaging process. These messages are sent and received via an intermediately connected CAPI protocol unit, which is also considered application interface; see paragraph [0033]).

Re claim 8: The teachings of admitted prior art in view of Tajiri '420 and Sakurai '373 are disclosed above.

The admitted prior art discloses the method according to claim 7, wherein the application interface is embodied according to a CAPI standard (i.e. the application interface used in sending and receiving the messages in the system uses the known interface CAPI, which is a software or communication interface that makes the communication protocols available for the useful data channel; see paragraph [0033]).

6. Claims 2, 9-13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art, modified by Tajiri '420 (US Pat No 6975420) and Sakurai '373, and further in view of Johnson '585 (US Pat No 6480585).

Art Unit: 2625

Re claim 2: The teachings of admitted prior art in view of Tajiri '420 and Sakurai '373 are disclosed above.

The admitted prior art discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein the transmission-controlling connection between the second fax machine and second data gateway is set up with the transmission-controlling connection between the first fax machine and the first data gateway (i.e. shown in figure 2A and 2B, the transmission-controlling connection between the first fax machine and data gateway is set up with the transmission-controlling connection between the second fax machine and data gateway. With the data gateways acting as fax machine, since they communicate information to the fax machine at the level of the protocols, the above features are performed; see applicant's specification paragraphs [0042]-[0052]).

However, the admitted prior art in view of Tajiri '420 and Sakurai '373 fails to teach set up synchronously.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Johnson '585. Johnson '585 discloses set up synchronously (i.e. Johnson '585 discloses having a first gateway and a first facsimile being synchronized and the second facsimile and gateway are also synchronized at the same rate. With these two facsimiles having the same data transfer rate being synchronized, they both can be synchronized in communicating data to one another. With the synchronizing feature of Johnson '585 and the transmission controlling connection between both fax machines and their respective gateways in the admitted prior art combined together, the above feature is performed; see col. 9, lines 7-31).

Art Unit: 2625

Therefore, in view of Johnson '585, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the system set up synchronously in order to perform synchronized functions (as stated in Johnson '585 col. 9 lines 7-31).

Re claim 9: The teachings of the admitted prior art, modified by Tajiri '420 and Sakurai '373, and further in view of Johnson '585 is disclosed above.

The admitted prior art discloses the method according to claim 2, wherein the identification information identifies a type of fax machine (i.e. as stated in paragraph [0045] of the background of the invention, the TSI can be details of the type of fax; see paragraph [0045] of the background of the invention).

Re claim 10: The teachings of the admitted prior art, modified by Tajiri '420 and Sakurai '373, and further in view of Johnson '585 is disclosed above.

The admitted prior art discloses the method according to claim 9, wherein the identification information contains information about a directory number identifying the fax machine (i.e. as stated in paragraph [0045] of the background of the invention, the TSI can comprise of a directory number identifying the first fax machine or any other machine; see paragraph [0045] of the background of the invention).

Re claim 11: The teachings of the admitted prior art, modified by Tajiri '420 and Sakurai '373, and further in view of Johnson '585 is disclosed above.

Art Unit: 2625

The admitted prior art discloses the method according to claim 10, wherein the first and second data gateways employ a fax protocol unit for converting connection-controlling payload data (i.e. at step t7, the fax protocol is used in the first data gateway in order to receive a request for opening a useful data channel for the waiting remote copy data transmission. The first fax protocol translates or converts this incoming information and opens up a useful data channel. This is an example of converting the connection-controlling useful data since it opens up a useful data connection based on the control message sent to the fax protocol; see figs. 2 and 3; paragraphs [0030]-[0035]).

Re claim 12: The teachings of the admitted prior art, modified by Tajiri '420 and Sakurai '373, and further in view of Johnson '585 is disclosed above.

The admitted prior art discloses the method according to claim 11, wherein both the first and second data gateways employ a fax protocol unit for converting connection-controlling payload data (i.e. at step t7, the fax protocol is used in the first data gateway in order to receive a request for opening a useful data channel for the waiting remote copy data transmission. The first fax protocol translates or converts this incoming information and opens up a useful data channel. This is an example of converting the connection-controlling useful data since it opens up a useful data connection based on the control message sent to the fax protocol. Also, in step t19, a request is sent from the second data gateway to the second fax protocol requesting for the fax protocol to open up a useful data channel or connection for the waiting remote copy data

Art Unit: 2625

transmission. The second fax protocol converts the useful data that controls the setting up of a connection in the system; see figs. 2 and 3; paragraphs [0030]-[0052]).

Re claim 13: The teachings of the admitted prior art, modified by Tajiri '420 and Sakurai '373, and further in view of Johnson '585 is disclosed above.

The admitted prior art discloses the method according to claim 12, wherein control messages are exchanged between the fax protocol units and the data gateways, and the control messages are received and sent by an intermediately connected application interface (i.e. as stated in the background of the invention in paragraph [0033], control messages are sent between the fax protocols and the data gateways, which implies that one has to be a transmitter and one a receiver in the messaging process. These messages are sent and received via an intermediately connected CAPI protocol unit, which is also considered application interface; see paragraph [0033]).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

8. Endo '038 (US Pat No 6381038) discloses a system that has the facsimiles establish communication with their respective gateways and the identification information of a facsimile is performed after both facsimile devices are connected to their respective gateways.

Art Unit: 2625

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chad Dickerson whose telephone number is (571)-270-1351. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Thur. 9:00-6:30 Fri. 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung Moe can be reached on (571)-272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2625

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CD/ 
Chad Dickerson
February 2, 2008


AUNG S. MOE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
2/4/08